

The President. Thank you very much. Let me just say a word of thanks to Allstate and to its chairman for their leadership. And thanks again to John Gardner. Thanks to all the Members of Congress for coming here. And thanks to all of you.

The most important thing I think we can take away from here is what John Gardner said: This is a can-do country. This is fundamentally an optimistic country. Just 2 days ago the international economic experts who every year rank the countries of the world in terms of how productive they are, ranked the United States number one again for the first time in nearly 10 years.

That happened because of what people are doing in the heartland and because we're getting our act together up here. And you should feel very hopeful about the future because of what you have done and because of what you have done.

Thank you, and God bless you all. We're adjourned. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:10 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Appointment for Chair of the National Cancer Advisory Board

September 8, 1994

The President today announced his intention to appoint Barbara K. Rimer, Dr. P.H., of Duke University, as Chair and member of the National Cancer Advisory Board (NCAB).

"The NCAB plays a critical role by providing advice on the Federal cancer research effort," the President said. "Dr. Rimer has demonstrated her ability to meld insight from the biological and behavioral sciences into new approaches to cancer control, and I look forward to her leadership of the NCAB."

NOTE: A biography of the appointee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Appointment for Chair of the President's Cancer Panel

September 8, 1994

The President today announced his intention to reappoint Harold P. Freeman, M.D.,

of Harlem Hospital Center, New York, as Chair and member of the President's Cancer Panel. The President's Cancer Panel is a 3-member group providing advice to the President on various aspects of the National Cancer Program. Dr. Freeman has chaired the Panel since 1991.

"The President's Cancer Panel plays an essential role in monitoring the Nation's cancer program and guiding its progress into the future," the President said. "I admire Dr. Freeman's commitment to reducing death and suffering from cancer during this time of significant progress and considerable challenge in cancer research. The National Cancer Program is vital to our Nation's health."

NOTE: A biography of the appointee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Remarks to the 1994 Seeds of Peace Group

September 9, 1994

The President. I want to welcome all of you here to the White House, young people from all across the Middle East. We have here Israeli, Palestinian, Egyptian, Moroccan, and Jordanian young people coming together to our country as ambassadors of peace for an entire generation.

A year ago, almost to the day, we had the signing of the Israeli-PLO accord here. And there were young people from Seeds of Peace here. And when they were here, I saw them and asked that all present dedicate themselves to peace for the next generation. Since then we have seen an agreement between Israel and Jordan. We have seen further peace on the other Middle East fronts, further progress on the other Middle East peace fronts. And we have seen just last week Morocco and Israel take the first step toward establishing diplomatic relations.

But ahead of all that is the simple magic of the person-to-person relationships that you are building and a future you are building for yourselves. I hope so much that by the time all of you are my age the problems of the Middle East will be a distant memory, and all of you will celebrate the unity and strength, the harmony and prosperity of a region of people working together just as you

have sung together today and come together in the United States.

This is a time of peace as well as trouble in the world. We see progress in the Middle East. We see progress in Ireland. We see democracy taking root in Russia. There is a great deal to hope for and a great deal of work to do. I think it is fair to say that for me and for all of us who have seen you here in the United States, the image of your smiling together, of you singing together, of you being together will spur us on to try to make sure that the future that you share will be a future you share together.

Thank you very much.

[At this point, John Wallach, president, *Seeds of Peace*, and Tamer Nagy Mohamed, an Egyptian participant in the program, made brief remarks and presented gifts to the President.]

The President. Thank you. [Applause] That's terrific. Good luck to you. Thank you.

Mr. Mohamed. Thank you very much.

The President. Let's give him another hand. Didn't he do a good job? Thank you. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House prior to his departure for New Orleans, LA.

Remarks to the National Baptist Convention, USA, in New Orleans, Louisiana

September 9, 1994

If I could sing like that, I would have never gotten into politics. [Laughter and applause] Reverend Jemison; your president-elect, Dr. Lyons; to Dr. Richardson, Reverend James, Dr. Mary Ross; to all the distinguished Louisianans here present, including Reverend Governor Edwards—I thought he did very well today—Senator Breaux and Congressman Jefferson and Mayor Morial and all your State officials and legislators; Reverend Jackson; to all the members of my staff and Cabinet who are here—where are the people here with the administration? They're all here somewhere.

I want to say many things, but first we have a duty, I think, as Americans to take a mo-

ment of silence now for the 131 people who were killed in that awful air crash in Pittsburgh. Hillary and I send our deepest sympathies and our prayers to the friends and the loved ones of the crash victims. And I know that all of you and all Americans also send your prayers to the grieving.

Our Secretary of Transportation, Secretary Peña, is there in Pittsburgh. I have talked with the mayor and the Governor this morning and with Senator Wofford. All Americans should know that we will do whatever we can to assure their safety in travel. But let us today, in the painful recognition of our fallibility as human beings, mourn with a moment of silence those who lost their lives.

Amen.

Well, Dr. Jemison, I thank you for that warm introduction. I have known you as a friend for a long time. When we were standing outside, about to come up, he was reviewing his more than 50 years in the leadership of this great church. That's a long time, worthy of honor, and I give it.

Two years ago I had a great moment with all of you in Atlanta when I was running for President. And last year I was invited to appear, and I couldn't. I had to give my regrets. I sort of felt like the boy who skipped Sunday school. [Laughter] I promised Dr. Jemison I'd be here this year no matter what, so I showed up, and I hope you have forgiven me because I feel at home.

Two years ago I came to you, and you responded. I asked you to work with me to give us at least a chance to change the direction our country was headed in. We had too much debt and too few jobs. We seemed to be going in the wrong direction, where ordinary Americans were ignored and people with money and organized power were heeded, but somehow the thing was not working. As the Vice President used to say, "What ought to be up was down, and what ought to be down was up." And that was a problem. I wanted a chance to try to move this country forward again and to try to pull our country together again.

Today, having served now for not quite 2 years, I guess what I want to say to you is I think we're doing a pretty good job of moving forward but not nearly a good enough job of coming together.